

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY DAKAR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 3361

S E C R E T DAKAR 0030

NODIS

FOR MULCAHY FROM SCHAUFEL

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, AO, SF

SUBJECT: ANGOLA: SOUTH AFRICAN WITHDRAWAL

REF: STATE 001411

1. AMONG THOSE CHIEFS OF STATE I HAVE TALKED TO ONLY AHIDJO MIGHT HAVE SOME DIFFICULTY WITH CONTINUED SA PRESENCE IN ANGOLA. EVEN HE STATED THAT USE OF SOUTH AFRICAN INVOLVEMENT AS EXCUSE FOR MPLA RECOGNITION BY SOME AFRICAN STATES WAS "PRETEXT."

2. OTHER FOUR CHIEFS OF STATE, TO VARYING DEGREES, WOULD SEE NO PROBLEM AS LONG AS SOUTH AFRICA DID NOT STAY ON IF OTHERS WITHDRAW. THEY WOULD TEND, I BELIEVE, TO THINK THAT CONTINUED MILITARY PRESSURE WHICH SA PRESENCE PROVIDES IS WORTH IT FOR TIME-BEING.

3. I UNDERSTAND KAUNDA'S POSITION WHICH PROVIDES SOME DIPLOMATIC ADVANTAGE AT SOME MILITARY RISK. ON OTHER HAND, I BELIEVE THERE IS GOOD CHANCE MPLA WILL TRY GAIN MILITARY GROUND BETWEEN NOW AND END OF OAU MEETING. ONLY FEASIBLE ANSWER TO THIS POSSIBILITY IN MY OPINION IS SOUTH AFRICAN ANNOUNCEMENT THAT IT PREPARED TO WITHDRAW ITS FORCES IN CONTEXT WITHDRAWAL ALL OTHER FOREIGN INTERVENTION. ANOTHER FORMULATION COULD BE THAT IF OAU CALLS FOR WITHDRAWAL FOREIGN INTERVENTION IT IS PREPARED HEED CALL ON ASSUMPTION OTHERS WILL DO SO AS WELL.

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4. THIS SEEMS TO BE ONLY POSSIBILITY TO GAIN SOME PRE-OAU
PROPAGANDA ADVANTAGE AND AT SAME TIME PRESERVE MILITARY PRESSURE
WHICH CAN LEAD TO NEGOTIATIONS.
AGGREY

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